

REMARKS

Claims 1, 10-13, 15, 16 and 29-32 are in the present application, claims 2-4 and 14 having been canceled and claims 29-32 having been added by this preliminary amendment, which Applicants submit is a complete response to the outstanding Final Office Action.. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is kindly requested.

Summary of Examiner Interview

Applicants' representative initially thanks Examiner Tugbang for his time in a telephonic interview on May 1, 2003. Prior to the interview, sent Examiner Tugbang proposed claims. The claims were discussed during the interview and the Examiner was receptive to the proposed amendments as apparently overcoming the art of record, but indicated that such amendments would require further search and/or consideration and could not be entered after final. Accordingly, Applicants have filed this RCE with preliminary amendment, and submit that the claims in this amended form overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection over Braymen (USP 5,348,617), in view of EerNisse et al. (USP 5,022,130).

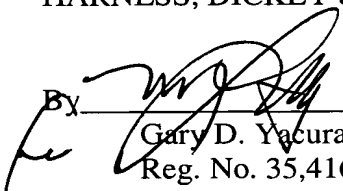
In the event that any matters remain at issue in the application, the Examiner is invited to contact Matthew J. Lattig at (703) 390-3030 in the Northern Virginia area, for the purpose of a telephonic interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By


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